



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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COUNTY LOOKS TO EXPAND SUMMER MEALS PROGRAMS FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN

Montgomery County is working to make sure that no children in the County go hungry when school is closed this summer.

Federal and state officials, as well as representatives of community organizations, joined Montgomery County Council President Michael Subin in kicking off plans to expand the Summer Food Service Program for children who receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year, but who may not get enough to eat when school is out.

"Many of our children who rely on school breakfast and lunch during the school year, do not have the energy they need during the summer," said Council President Subin. "That's where we come in, by providing nutritious meals and activities to keep kids nourished and engaged."

The program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is an extension of the National School Lunch Program that serves over 14 million free or reduced-price meals during the school year.

This program, which also includes recreational and educational activities, served 5,347 County children last year – or only about 20 percent of the children eligible and able to be served. County officials would like to expand the program this summer by at least 50 percent. The effort operates out of 37 County schools, as well as through church camps, community centers and groups, and apartment complexes.

"Our responsibility to kids doesn't end when school lets out," said Subin. "Kids who get enough to eat and have safe activities to participate in during the summer are less likely to get into trouble. Our summer meals program is a building block in the community for healthy, happy kids who are ready to learn."

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